School earns AA bond rating

Now ranked among most prestigious

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Liberty University sold $120 million worth of tax-exempt education facilities bonds on Tuesday, which will allow the university to enter a new era of growth and development.

Chancellor Jerry Falwell Jr. and a contingent of Liberty officials traveled to New York City for the sale and pricing of the bonds at its initial public bond offering.

Liberty benefits from a recently acquired AA bond rating from Standard & Poor's, placing it among the top 44 S&P-rated colleges and universities for financial strength.

"It is very rare for any company to receive a AA rating as its initial credit rating," Falwell said. Recent examples are Microsoft and Google.

Liberty is the second private college in Virginia that currently holds the rating. Washington & Lee in Lexington is the other.

"Like other AA-rated universities, Liberty has chosen to take advantage of low interest rates and tax-exempt financing rather than spend its reserves BONDS continued on A2"

Driving impaired

Texting while operating a vehicle equals drunk driving

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Many teenagers use their thumbs nowadays to make plans with their friends on a Friday night. Since its debut in 1989, texting has become a phenomenon across the United States. According to the Cellular Telecommunications Industry Association, over 1.6 trillion text messages were sent per day in 2009.

The key selling point of texting is that it saves time. In many cases, people are so eager to speed up communication that they have adopted the dangerous habit of texting while driving. Unfortunately, this short cut is an action that can lead to shortened lives.

According to a recent Virginia Tech Transportation Institute study, the reason for this may be linked to the fact that texting while driving is the equivalent of drunk driving, slowing a driver's reaction time to that of someone with a blood-alcohol level of .08.

"The results don't shock me," Lynchburg Behind the Wheel Instructor John Mann said. "I actually would have thought they'd be worse than that."

Mann, who has been teaching Behind the Wheel for about 15 years, has lost former students due to texting while driving.

"We must do more to equip our students with the tools and reserves necessary rather than spend to reserves Gov. seeks $50M in higher education

Jonathan Parker
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Governor Bob McDonnell proposed spending $50 million on a wide-range of higher education initiatives Friday.

McDonnell announced the investment plan during the governor's Commission on Higher Education Reform, Innovation and Investment meeting at Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond, according to a news release.

"We must reverse the trend of disinvestment in higher education," McDonnell said in the news release.

"We must do more to equip our students with the tools and reserves they need to compete with their peers here in the United States and around the world?" Chancellor Jerry Falwell Jr., one of eight college presidents on the 44-member commission, said McDonnell plans to enhance tuition assistance grants (TAG) for Virginia students attending the independent colleges and universities.

During commission meetings, Falwell stressed the importance of TAG funding and the money independent schools save the state.

"Liberty alone is saving the state several million dollars a year," Falwell said.

Falwell said he wants Virginians $6,000 per year to educate a student.

"Governor continued on A2"
The ratings were脸色 by Liberty's high school vice president and the university's ability to pay back loans.

As Liberty prepares to celebrate its 40th anniversary next year, Pedigo said the school of the summer will be used to pay for certain capital projects that have been completed in recent years and will finance the construction of new buildings.

"We are all in favor of putting dollars on the job and helping our students," Pedigo said in a statement.

"It is important for us to be able to make roads safer," Pedigo said. "We have a lot of drivers and we want to make sure they are safe."
Train track safety a major concern

CRYSTAL HEAVNER (Chief News Reporter)

A few years ago in Virginia, a grandmother and her grandson walked downhill to the railroad tracks to feed them.

They saw the critters on the tracks and waited for the train to pass. When the train drew by, they were so busy watching the train go that they didn’t notice the oncoming train until it was too late.

In the 1970s, some Liberty University students were caught on railroad tracks near Riverside Park, walking them (believing in Mephan: Help me, Lord) until they saw them crossing the tracks. They had nowhere to go and gambled a trip. They didn’t survive.

Since 1990, there have been over 5,000 people killed while trespassing on railroad rights-of-way and property, according to an Operation Lifesaver brochure. "The lives of others are at stake when students violate the highway-rail grade crossing laws and right-of-way laws that prohibit trespassing on tracks or crossing in undeveloped areas to file claims and evidence laws."

The evidence of student being killed is a reminder of the importance of railroad safety. "We won’t catch every one. It is the hope that we are not crossing safety lines," Allen said.

Allen specifically mentioned students that are stepping off the tracks in order to get off campus and onto Words Road.

Students apparently are unaware of the grave risk posed by illegal train trespassing. Train and Allen said students who cross illegally flirt with the possibility of misjudging the distance of the train and getting hit.

Train tracks can be optically misleading and sometimes appear farther away and slower moving than they are. According to Allen.

"The laws are there for a reason." The biggest type of engin­eers is someone walking on the tracks in front of them and not realizing they are stepping off the tracks.

Allan informed students that if the crossing arms operate for an extended period, there is a number on the post they can call to contact a dispatcher. The dispatcher will tell the student where the nearest engineer can be reached.

Heavner is a news reporter.
“Every morning Christmas morning we have a tea party before we do anything else.”

Elizabeth Christy, freshman

“My favorite Christmas tradition is stockings. My mom fills them with goodies and always includes an orange.”

Noelle Blankenbush, senior

CHRISTMAS GIFT — Grace Connor Batte left pictured with her cousin Cat Hewett (news editor) during their Thanksgiving celebration in 2007.

Grace: A Christmas miracle

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It’s been a while. A very, very long while. Every time someone told me they were unacceptable. The English language does not contain words enough to properly describe the Christmas of 2000. It is something we refer to as a season.

To describe Christmas of 2000, I have to start in June of 1999, the year before mine. Caleb’s father, Chris, had died in April. Caleb’s mother, Elizabeth, had given birth to their son, Caleb, on Valentine’s Day. Caleb was born six weeks before his due date, weighing 2 lbs. 14 oz. and with no other life signs.

It was a joyous yet frightening time for the family. Elizabeth could barely believe that Caleb was really in the world. Every time she was walking into that hospital room seeing her new baby, she was normal and most of the medical experts thought that “something” was wrong with the baby. She knew that as long as she lived, she would never, ever, ever be normal. She did just that.

When Caleb came home, he had a small portion of his liver, and an undescended testicle, could not talk and had limited use of his arms.

My family never really knew how Caleb could be alive, but whenever my uncle would talk to him, Caleb looked at him.

Caleb’s love was simple.

Every time he was sitting in church with his parents and the piano would begin to play or the congregation would sing, the center of Caleb’s attention was on the source of the harmonies.

Then the Thursday after break my sixth grade grade, my year in Texas was over and my normal life my first ever thought was “something” was wrong with my mother. I was just a kid and my thinking was “something” was wrong with the baby.

As the weeks went on in physical therapy, the only thing that was normal and my normal first ever thought was “something” was wrong with the baby.

Instead of being a baby, Caleb was born with a unique condition called Osteogenesis Imperfecta. OI is a genetic condition that affects the body’s ability to build and maintain bone tissue.

To describe Christmas of 2000, it is a story about my family’s experience. I didn’t have time to move on from the shock of hearing what my parents had been through. I couldn’t sleep. I couldn’t eat. I had kids. I had a wedding to plan.

The family began to pick up the broom…

A (“!’ scan after Caleb was born revealed that he had very little visual. His twin was the only one that had died in-utero and his brain was very small. His twin would talk to him, Caleb rarely responded to anything.

The family held on to hope.

The baby that Caleb was born with was not Caleb.

We like to say that every cloud has a silver lining and God has a plan for everything. I can say that is true.

My past is my present.

Then we prayed that God would bring the child, like the story of Jacob, to a destination where God would take care of him.

Our first Christmas without Caleb…

My aunt and uncle were just beginning to pick up the pieces.

That Christmas, I witnessed a miracle.

I cried for a little while before going to sleep that night. Knowing Caleb was awake, I began to cry and gave him all of my love. I never thought about the present, here.

That Christmas, my grandparents gave me enough money to buy food, ensure the utilities stayed on, and make sure they were there. My family did not celebrate Christmas in our normal fashion. We were very blessed. The Christmas season in my house has always been very family-oriented, and we always set aside time to go back to the local community. I never thought my family would be on the other end of the spectrum.

A new perspective on Christmas

AMANDA SULLIVAN
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My desire to play Christmas music prior to Thanksgiving day stems from a few weeks since the Lynchburg weather has turned abruptly cold. He was in coming to my Texas body temperature that balks at anything cooler than about 80 degrees. Although classes had yet to break for Thanksgiving, I still found myself playing Christmas music in the office much earlier than normal.

At the sight of that tiny head, my Christmas was only 7 lbs. 7 oz. of her, my first Christmas without Caleb. Christmas was being held, and God had a plan for everything. I can say that is true.

My family is one of our largest and best traditions. It is a time to relax. The true meaning, the real reason for celebrating Christmas is because God gave us the gift of eternal life through His son Jesus.

Happy birthday, my dear cous­

—Grace Connor Batte, senior

—SULLIVAN is a graduate assistant.
North Korea shakes world resolve

Attack has globe playing defense

ABBY ARMSTRUSTER
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From June North Korea fired artillery shells on South Korean islands Nov. 23, the world has been placed into the necessary defensive position.

While some parties are speaking up, mainly the US and the UN atomic watchdog, other parties — including China — have remained sharpshells in their response to North Korea’s actions.

“I do not believe we should continue to reward North Korea’s provocative and destabilizing behavior with bargaining and new incentives,” Chairman of Joint Chiefs of Staff Adm. Mike Mullen said according to Reuters. North Korea killed four people and burned down many houses in the attack Nov. 23, in North Korea stated that South Korea began attacks on it.

Now, both Koreas are gearing up for a battle in the Yellow Sea, as China urges emergency talks with North Korea.

“The Chinese government asked for South Korea, North Korea, the United States, Japan and Russia to convene what it described as emergency consultations in Beijing next month as a way to avoid a further deterioration of the situation,” according to the New York Times.

Citizens of the US need to be aware of North Korea’s deadliest attack since the Korean War of 1953.

While North Korea’s actions are not taking place in America’s proverbial backyard, the forced motion of militaristic behavior by North Korea will destabilize the security and protection of America’s territories, through military and financial means. It continues.

US soldiers are already helping South Korea by allowing military observers to see the operations of Japan and America’s armies, according to the Kennedy Morning Herald. Over 40,000 Japanese and US troops began joint training in late November according to Bloomberg.com.

The UN atomic watch has increased attention is being focused on North Korea at this time, in response to increased levels of nuclear activity in the area, according to AP.

In addition, the European Union (EU) found North Korea trading and importing nuclear weapons without other countries noticing. With the new WikiLeaks documentation that was posted, one of the articles said that the US had tried to get other international banks to cut ties with North Korea regime for some time, according to Bloomberg.com.

The EU has told other nations to severely monitor the imports and exports with North Korea in order to prevent a contribution to proliferation-sensitive activities, according to Bloomberg.com.

With nuclear changing hands so frequently, other nations are single-handedly siding in North Korea’s attempt in making nuclear wars necessary.

If nations cease all international holding with North Korea, many nations would be hurt from the lack of monetary funds their countries would be losing.

With other nations taking a financial hit, international attention would be on the muscle making things harder for America who is in the middle of a recession as it is, with unemployment rates rising to 9.8 percent, according to CNN.

“Hey Obama,” according to the article, “do you think that just means the deaths of oppressed North Korean citizens.”

Liberty University senior strategic intelligence major Doi Miles said.

If North Korea continues with its hidden agenda, the impact will be global.

South Korea is already walking on eggshells and when America and North Korea get to face to face, will America still stand up to the hidden motives of Kim Jong Il and company?

North Korea actions need to be halted, but the world is in order to recover that unity once come with Bloodshed.

* ARMSTRUSTER is the opinion editor.

WikiLeaks fiasco embarrasses journalism

KATIE BELL
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WikiLeaks has been the topic of much conversation since the web-based organization began publishing 250,000 confidential US diplomatic documents for the cause of good journalism under the leadership of Julian Assange last week.

Supporters of WikiLeaks are trying to make the site a go-to reference for news. The site has garnered a lot of attention.

“For Americans to reveal classified government information, it is against the law. For foreigners to do is an act of espionage,” Kori Schake an advisor with the McCain presidential campaign said in an interview on CNN.

It is apparent that Assange has continued the responsible investigative reporting that Woodward and Carl Bernstein did with the Watergate scandal with that of permissible espionage.

Releasing government secrets in the name of transparency major Matt Martin said.

“The role of good journalism takes on the hidden motives of Kim Jong II and company?”

It is the role of good journalism to take on powerful abuses.

Assange

It is the role of good journalism to take on powerful abuses.

Assange

Bradley Manning, an Army intelligence analyst, is the prime suspect as Assange is confirmed. Manning is currently being held in a pre-trial confinement cell at a military base in Virginia, according to the New York Times.

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The Virginia wilderness has become a recreational playground for adventure seekers, but it's one that playfulness can be a prison.Visitors and residents are Virginia's landscape for camping, hiking, canoeing and many other activities. Central Virginia alone offers an abundance of hiking trails and camping sites. The Blue Ridge Parkway, Shenandoah National Park, Panther Falls, Appalachian Trail and Devils Marble Yard are just a few of the public spots for recreation. These are all available for little or no additional cost. However, with each activity there are dangers involved. One primary danger is getting lost.

"It's pretty hard to get lost," said Robert Speiden an expert in tracking. "Sometimes you really have to look at it and then develop a sense of things through your feet." Park Ranger Don Heber said that Octo-

ber is one of the busiest months for missing campers and hikers. He said people normally hit out late and unprepared which results in the sun setting and darkness causing confusion that hinders their return. The largest demo-

graphic reported missing involve either young boys or oldsters. It's very rare to not be found under 12 hours, even more rare is for the search to go multi-day. If they were missing, we'd be looking for them," Speiden said.

Speiden has had many years experience in tracking people and finding the missing. He is involved with many search and rescue organizations including Black Diamond Search and Rescue, Angel Search and Rescue and the Southwest Virginia Mountain Rescue Group. With those groups, he has helped find many missing people in Virginia. Speiden helped with two recent cases involving a 19-year-old who fell off a mountain and a17-year-old killed.

In September Kenny Karus,16 years old and a student at Central Virginia Community College, was sightseeing with friends on a300 square mile area. Knight knew not to wander when lost, so he set up camp and waited for crews to find him. Eventually, he set brush on fire to signal his location. Firefighters were notified of a forest fire and found Knight when they responded to the call. Mountain rescue workers carried Knight to the car. While taking pictures the rock fell under him and he fell 15 feet down a cliff spurring his ankles on landing. Acting on advice from his grandfather Karus decided to follow a stream downstream in hopes of encountering rescue teams. Instead he was led deeper into the Poor Mountain Woods.

Karus had a cell phone and spoke with the 911 dispatcher until his battery died. The dispatcher told him it was fine if possible to help signal rescue crews of his whereabouts. Around midnight a police helicopter saw a glow in their night vision from the fire he made by burning his hat, shirt, water bottle, business card and tinder. Crews decided to direct themselves toward that location at sunrise. About 24 hours of being lost Karus was found by search and rescue workers. He had survived a night in the Virginia wilderness.

"I was more than happy to be an animal," Karus said about the search and rescue brought that found him.

Another recent account of a hiker gone missing occurred on the Appalachian Trail in Amherst County. To compound his misfortune, Knight was standing on a rock out from under him and he fell 15 feet down a cliff spurring his ankle. Action on advice from his grandfather Karus decided to follow a stream downstream in hopes of encountering rescue teams. Instead he was led deeper into the Poor Mountain Woods.

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OCC inspires hope in children

Liberty students donate more than 1,100 shoeboxes

ASHLEY BOLLINGER
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Resulting from the support of the Lynchburg community, thousands of underprivileged children around the world have been given a chance to experience Christmas through the work of Operation Christmas Child (OCC). Students across Liberty University's campus have shown an exponential amount of compassion through their actions this Christmas season, according to OCC representative Sherry Mcfaden. More than 1,100 shoeboxes were compiled from the Liberty homeowners, which is a 250% increase from last year. Each year hundreds of students join together with the community to make the reality of Christmas come alive for children in need all over the world through the efforts of OCC. OCC is a campaign of Samaritan's Purse that offers children the opportunity to experience Christmas, often for the first time in their lives, by empowering the community to join together and create shoeboxes that are sent across the world to the children in need. Since its inception (in 1993), OCC has delivered over 77 million gifts to children in poverty-stricken situations, Mcfaden said.

The Christmas season OCC patterned with Liberty and the Lynchburg community to make the dream of hope a reality for children worldwide. "This year in the Lynchburg area, volunteers collected nearly 18,000 shoe box gifts, which is a 17% increase from 2009," Mcfaden said. "Making a box is important because it gives children the opportunity to receive a gift they may have never received before or even will again in their lives," Liberty student Bethany Smith said after visiting the Samaritan's Purse warehouse in North Carolina where OCC sorts and distributes the Christmas boxes. "It gives us the opportunity to share the love with Christ with people who may never have it. It is our privilege to take a part of that sort of thing." Thanks to the efforts of the Lynchburg community and communities across the nation nearly 2.6 million boxes have already been processed this Christmas season. The boxes will be shipped to 130 different countries.

"Around the world, children lives will be changed by the gifts they receive because Liberty University students chose to give the Christmas," Mcfaden said.

FAHLE is a news reporter.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES PRESENTS

Nursing professor honored for service

CINDI FAHLE
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There have been many individuals who have left behind a legacy at Liberty University. These individuals are recognized and honored for their sacrifice, friendship and dedication to the university. Dr. Hila Spear is being recognized as one of these individuals. She has been honored with receiving the prestigious award of Professor Emeritus, an award which recognizes Spear for her long and outstanding service to Liberty. Spear has been a professor for 27 years, making many contributions. She started the graduate nursing program and was the director of the program for 10 years. Spear played a major role in starting the masters program, developing and teaching courses and achieving the accreditation. Spear also contributed to the development of the other nursing programs. "Hila [Spear] was in the second round of faculty hired to teach in the program. She moved the way developing the community health course and re-designing the research course," Dr. Linda Miller, the former department chair, said. "We became much more than colleagues and have remained in touch over these many years," Miller later returned to Liberty as an online professor. "Hila was my student, my colleague and friend, and then my boss," Miller said. "She has been a blessing to me over these many years. God has used her at Liberty and in the profession of nursing." Spear received her Bachelor of Science in nursing from Liberty University. She was among the first students in the program. She went on to receive her Master of Science in community health nursing from the University of Virginia, as well as her doctorate degree. Besides her work at Liberty, Spear has also made a significant contribution to the field of nursing. Her has written 80-100 articles ranging from nursing theory to many different topics related to children's health issues. Many of these have been published in the Journal of Christian Nursing and other publications. "Making a box is important because it gives children the opportunity to receive a gift they may have never received before or even will again in their lives," Liberty student Bethany Smith said after visiting the Samaritan's Purse warehouse in North Carolina where OCC sorts and distributes the Christmas boxes. "It gives us the opportunity to share the love with Christ with people who may never have it. It is our privilege to take a part of that sort of thing." Thanks to the efforts of the Lynchburg community and communities across the nation nearly 2.6 million boxes have already been processed this Christmas season. The boxes will be shipped to 130 different countries.

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STUDENT ACTIVITIES PRESENTS

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10TH
11:30PM • VINES CENTER

TICKETS:
$3 ADV • $5 DOORS • $64 TABLE (8 SEATS)

PURCHASE TICKETS ONLINE AT WWW.LIBERTY.EDU/SA
OR AT THE VINES CENTER BOX OFFICE
Working their way through school

Students juggle work and classes

KATIE BELL
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James Berrigan refers to himself as a “victory-lap senior.” Like many students he has to find a way to work through school. Fr. Steven Long referred to this in his column for The Patriot. He mentioned that many students have had to find a way to work their way through school to be able to afford their college education. This is a common issue among college students and is often necessary to afford their education.

“Working through college has been an opportunity to grow as a leader and a person,” said Berrigan. “When you are in authority over others you discover how you feel precisely because people know you, you know when and how they are messing up.”

Berrigan manages another Liberty student who is working her way through school, Brandyn Dorman. Berrigan and Dorman are in the same jurisprudence class taught by Dr. Michelle Crawford. Berrigan is a New York City senior. He has been working for five years with Applebee’s and he took over paying tuition and living expenses his junior year. He said, “I am glad to say that I quickly got over it and I cannot imagine what my last academic struggles would have been like without that static-filled and very loud long-distance phone call.”

In today’s economy, many college students have had to find a way to work their way through school. Not all students are finding the entire bill like Berrigan. Some students work to pay for books and other fees that are associated with their costs of college. Steve Long, a University of Maryland at College Park alumnae wrote an article about working through college. It took him seven years to complete his degree in government and politics, according to Long, who is a classmate of Steve Long. It took him seven years to complete his degree in government and politics, according to Long, who is a classmate of Steve Long. In today’s economy, many college students have had to find a way to work their way through school. Not all students are finding the entire bill like Berrigan. Some students work to pay for books and other fees that are associated with their costs of college.

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Victorious again

Chelanga wins second title

PETER SAWER
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DOUBLE DIP — Senior Sam Chelanga captured his second consecutive 10K NCAA National Championship on Nov. 22.

A Christmas Carol

in review

Week wrap-up

Women's Basketball
Nov. 30 — The Lady Flames cruised past the Lady Pioneers of Glenville State on Tuesday 93-75. Redshirt junior Avery Warley and freshman Jasmine Gardner each finished the night with a double-double.

The Lady Flames shot season highs in percentage from the field (50), steals (18) and rebounds (64). Eight of the Lady Flames posted at least six points, lead by Warley with 17.

The win takes Liberty to 3-4 on the season and 3-0 at home.

Men's Basketball
Dec. 2 — The Flames opened Big South play against Presbyterian in the Vines Center Thursday with a win, 70-65.

The Flames were behind for most of the game, but rallied in the final 10 minutes for the win.

Redshirt junior John Brown led the Flames in scoring with 23 points and 11 rebounds. He leads the league in double-doubles with five on the season.

The win takes the Flames to 5-4 on the season and 1-0 in the Big South. Check out B4 for a frame-by-frame of a Jesse Sanders dunk.

Dec. 4 — The Flames won a nail-biter Saturday night as they continued Big South play against defending champion Winthrop.

Sophomore Evan Sanders posted 14 points, 10 rebounds and eight assists. Gordon sealed the win for the Flames in the final six seconds with two free throws.

BCS National Championship: On the hot seat

A discussion of ducks, tigers and horned frogs for the win

A Christmas Carol

fyi

• The first BCS national champion was Tennessee in 1999.

• The SEC is the leading BCS National Championship conference with six titles and four championship teams.
BRAD HORNFEFFER
bradhorn@liberty.edu

The Horns' defense has been a strength, and they will look to continue that success.

Michal Dier has done a superb job of controlling the offense. His defense is rigid enough to hold opponents to scores of 10 or less.

Auburn's defense and offense have been the backbone of the team. The defense has held opponents to an average of 13 points per game, while the offense has averaged 41 points per game.

The defense has been led by senior linebacker Sam Chelanga, who has recorded 107 tackles, 14 for a loss, and 5 sacks.

On offense, quarterback Kam Newton has been a force to be reckoned with. He has thrown for 2,500 yards and 26 touchdowns, along with 387 rushing yards and 6 touchdowns.

With his team leading the nation in both passing and rushing yards, Newton has been a key factor in Auburn's success.

The Horns' defense is led by senior linebacker Sam Chelanga, who has recorded 107 tackles, 14 for a loss, and 5 sacks. The defense has held opponents to an average of 13 points per game, while the offense has averaged 41 points per game.

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The air is thick this time of year. Laughter good will. Carol Snowflakes. And wedding bells. In light of the recent engagements of Champion sports editors Kelly Marvel and assistant sports editor Nate Brown to their respective fiancés, the editors discussed the top five all-time marriages in the world of sports.

The first airing of the Super Bowl in 1967 dwarfed the prior viewership record for the 1961 World Series with 60 million viewers. The game was aired on NBC and CBS. The first year and CBS were the rights to the second game. A one-minute commercial ran a company $85,000. Now the commercials that debut during the Super Bowl bring as many people as commercials. And what kind of world would that be?

The merger of the NFL and AFL

The single most significant marriage that American sports has been blessed to witness was the 1960 marriage of the National Football League (NFL) with its rival American Football League (AFL). The two leagues merged on January 1, 1960, and produced the one event that unites America every January — the Super Bowl.

Advertising and the Super Bowl

Number three on the marriage list is the bureaucratic union of America's favorite pastime with America's favorite food. America's favorite pastime is America's favorite food. When coming into a baseball park the first thing a fan encounters, besides the money out of the wallet and puts the delicious hot dog into hungry hands. According to an article on mlb.com, the hot dog tradition of baseball started in 1893 with dachshund sausages. Legend has it that in 1902, the name "hot dog" was given to these sausages at the New York Giants baseball park on a cold day. Hawkers sold the sausages by saying they were "red hot" and the term hot dog was used in a cartoon in the New York World in 1906. The single most significant marriage that American sports has been blessed to witness was the 1960 marriage of the National Football League with its rival American Football League. The two leagues merged on January 1, 1960, and produced the one event that unites America every January — the Super Bowl. "The big one." — the Super Bowl. "Til death do us part."

Number four on the all-time marriage list is the combination of sports with music and tradition. Marching bands at college football games have been a tradition since the Notre Dame Band made the first appearance at a game in 1930. Large bands have become staple at college football games. As the colors themselves...

Because Jesus came seeking us...

Wishing you a Merry Christmas

Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary and Graduate School
A slap on the wrist for a punch in the face

RYAN CARR
rmcarr@liberty.edu

If the 2010 NFL season had to be summed up in one word it would almost certainly be "controversy". Before the season was even under way there were scandals brewing, and almost every week there was something to talk about. why had nothing had very little to do with the actual game on the field.

The latest of these scandals came during the Nov. 28 game between the Tennessee Titans and Houston Texans. With just under eight minutes to go in the game, the Texans won, 20-0. Houston had a lead over the Titans and had the ball.

On a running play to the right, Titans cornerback Cortland Finnegan struck Texans wide receiver Andre Johnson directly in the head with both hands as the play went to the opposite side of the field. Johnson appeared to have had enough of Finnegan's antics and ripped his helmet off as the two began to wrestle. Finnegan removed Johnson's helmet before being dragged to the ground. Johnson used his size advantage over the smaller cornerback and delivered two quick blows to the face.

The fight, which lasted just a few seconds, resulted in both players being ejected from the game and both the Texans won, 20-0. In all honesty, Finnegan got everything that he deserved out of this fight.

According to a poll of NFL players done early in the season by The Sporting News, Finnegan was voted the player with the dirtiest reputation. This is not the first time he's had a run in he has had of Finnegan taking Rinnegan to the ground and stomped on. Players were also seen swinging helmets at opponents' heads as things spiraled out of control.

That makes hardly any sense at all. Why on earth should the guy who delivers a big hit, who has a harder time of controlling his body on the play, be fined and punished more severely than a guy who should have just walked back to the huddle and prepared for the next play?

What's most alarming about this incident is how quickly it escalated. If Goodell does not address these types of plays there could be an even bigger fight.

In 2006, an all-out brawl broke out during a game between Miami University and Florida International University. That play started much the same way but resolved in Miami being body slammed to the ground and out of the game. Players were even seen swinging helmets at opponents' heads as things spiraled out of control. It just does not make sense that the NFL takes such a strong stance on off-the-field issues and helmet-to-helmet hits, and then lets a fight on the field get swept under the rug.

For as strict as NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell has been since taking over, it comes as no surprise that neither player was suspended. Each player received a $25,000 fine for their actions during the game but will not be suspended for any games.

Goodell and the NFL condemned helmet-to-helmet hits and also what they described as "devastating" hits earlier this season. So if a guy makes a tackle and it appears to be a big hit he might get fined or suspended, but if the guy delivers a helmet-to-helmet hit and throws a few punches it only a small fine.

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ICE COOL — Liberty's Collegiate Skating Club hosted the 2010 Liberty University Intercollegiate Competition Friday and Saturday at the LaHaye Ice Center. Eleven colleges from all over the country participated, including Boston College, University of Delaware, New York University and others.

Over 130 competitors registered in 30 events over the two-day competition. (At right) Liberty skater Sarah LaRoche graces the ice in the Juvenile Ladies Freeskate.
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amazon.com/buyback
**A CLASSIC CHRISTMAS GHOST TALE** - This year’s production of *A Christmas Carol* incorporates flying ghosts through the use of wire-and-harness systems.

**TITFANY EDWARDS**
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Some fall ghosts flew and transcendentalists danced and sang their way through the Liberty Theatre Department’s production of Charles Dickens’s *A Christmas Carol*.

The new Tower Theater’s special capabilities faced a new challenge with the production, in which characters attached to harnesses flew throughout.

Assistant professor of theatre arts and play director Christ Nelson said that the production is stalled by six people, with two to three new people needed to continue catching acts.

According to Nelson, the play cost and crew had to come back to school early from Thanksgiving break to learn how to operate the equipment as well as have homesickness and practice back and forth otherwise.

The group spent the Saturday and Sunday after Thanksgiving practicing for 12 to 16 hours with the new equipment.

“We had the company ‘Flying by Fly’ set up the flying equipment and teach our crew and students how to use it,” Nelson said. “Some of the actors caught on to flying faster than others, but now they’re in all shows. They love doing it and perfecting it.”

The plot follows classic Christmas miracles: Scrooge, played by junior Jonathan Taabtree, as the ‘Bah’ and ‘Humbug’ win through the day, saving even Christmas carols and sending his nephew Fred, played by Jimmy Williamson, who also narrates the play, off to reach him to celebrate Christmas with the family. Scrooge also treasures his impoverished employee Bob Cratchit, who battles Scrooge with his upbeat attitude towards Christmas, despite his harsh financial circumstances and sickly child. Scrooge goes home to his large empty house and is preparing for bed when his old business associate Jacob Marley, dead for seven years, visits him. Marley’s ghost warns Scrooge that he will be visited by three ghosts of Christmas past present and future, who will attempt to show Scrooge the errors of his ways. Scrooge wants a Madygan warning, knowing the visitor to be an old drum, until the ghost of Christmas past visits him and which also offers the most happy and painful memories of his own form his early years.

The ghost of Christmas present allows Scrooge a glimpse into the lives and circumstances of the people around him and the ghost of Christmas future completes the right with a warning to Scrooge by giving him a look into the lives that mean him. The reference to change happens.

**Christmas Convo:** Don’t forget to get a good laugh in before finals week. Christmas convocation, the most anticipated parody event of the school year, is Dec. 10 at 9 a.m.

**Winterfest:** Need something to do over Thanksgiving break? Winterfest is back with food, fun and music Dec. 10 and 31. Featured artists include Lecrae, Humble Tip, Family Force 5, Newsboys, Fireflight, Kutless and more. Tickets are available online at libertywinterfest.com. CSER opportunities are available for students.

**A Christmas Wonderland in the Courtyard**
Free food, drinks and music for students sponsored by the Student Government Association Wednesday, Dec. 8 after Campus Church.

Salvation Army Bell Ringers: Liberty students, faculty and staff are invited to volunteer for the Salvation Army bell ringer position. CSER credit is available for students.

**Christmas Coffeehouse**
Christmas Coffeehouse is coming Dec. 10, in the Vines Center. Tickets are available through Student Activities’ website and at the Vines Center ticket office for $5. tickets will be $5 at the door. Floor tables are $64, seat eight people, and can only be purchased at the Vines Center ticket office.

**Virginia Christmas Spectacular: A Thomas Road Christmas Carol**
The Virginia Christmas Spectacular’s is in its 40th year of dazzling audiences of all ages. This year’s performance span 40 years of Christmas traditions and memories. For ticket information visit TRBC’s event website at new.trbc.org/events/ or calling 888-244-2776.

**A Christmas Carol**:
Join the Liberty Theater Department in their musical latest production of *A Christmas Carol*, which opens on Dec. 3 and runs until Dec. 13. Tickets are on sale now at liberty.edu/theatre.

**New Year’s Eve Mad Hatter’s Ball at City View Sky Top Lounge**
Fall down the rabbit hole and head to City View for the Mad Hatter’s Ball in downtown Lynchburg. Have a great time while helping a great cause. Tickets for the Ball are $50 per person. Proceeds will benefit Presbyterian Homes and Family Services and the Family Alliance PHFS and the Family Alliance provide services and programs to help children, adults and families in the community, from credit counseling and parenting classes to residential care for at-risk teens and adults with intellectual disabilities.

**Senior Class Christmas Sweater Day:** Show off your Christmas spirit and start a new tradition with SGA Wednesday, Dec. 8. Seniors, as well as students of all classes, are encouraged to wear Christmas sweaters, whether cute or cringe-worthy.

**LAMP Literary Journal**
Pick up your free copy Fall 2010 LAMP Magazine, available now at the Library Bookstore as well as local coffee shops.

**A Lecture on “A Christmas Carol”**
Signa Tai Delta and the Department of Theatre Arts are hosting a free lecture on Wednesday, Dec. 8 at 5:30 p.m. in the Tower Theater. Dr. Emily Heady and “A Christmas Carol” director Professor Chris Nelson will be speaking and light refreshments will be served.

**EXCLUSIVE AT WWW.LIBERTYCHAMPION.COM**
All photos in this feature are property of Liberty University. Student missionaries take “Next Steps” in their mission trips.

**Liquid Life: Give the gift of clean water**
Student missionaries take “Next Steps” in their mission trips.

**Mini-miracles and 24 Blooms**
Professor Monique Maloney reflects on her early years. The ghost of Christmas present allows Scrooge a glimpse into the lives and circumstances of the people around him and the ghost of Christmas future completes the right with a warning to Scrooge by giving him a look into the lives that mean him. The reference to change happens.

**SIGNA TAU DELTA AND THE DEPARTMENT OF THEATRE ARTS ARE HOSTING A FREE LECTURE ON DECEMBER 8 AT 5:30 PM IN THE TOWER THEATER.**

**INFORMATION VISIT TRBC'S EVENT WEBSITE AT WWW.TRBC.ORG/EVENTS/ OR CALLING 888-244-2776, OR VISITING THE LIBERTY THEATRE ARTS WEBSITE.**

**EDWARDS is the feature editor.**
Hark, hear the bells

Students, faculty, staff assist Salvation Army Red Kettle campaign

SHELANN JENNINGS

Bells will be ringing this season as Liberty volunteers encourage all passersby to give in support of the Lynchburg Salvation Army. "The great thing about Salvation Army is the Christian aspect of it. They are not shy of Christ and celebrating the season for what it's all about," Liberty's Salvation Army committee representative Darren Wu said.

The Salvation Army has set up kettle locations across the city, including the entrance of Ft. Poteet at River Ridge Mall, Walmart on Wards Road and Big Lots on Randolph Road. Over the years, Liberty has contributed to the Salvation Army's kettle drive.

"My experience in the last few years, everyone who has done it has felt like, oh, this is a really great thing and I'd like to do it again," Wu said.

"I'm impressed every year at the work people do giving to provide better opportunities for sexually exploited women," said Major Walker.

The Salvation Army kettle drive began Nov 12 and will run every Monday through Saturday until Christmas Eve.

"Our goal for the Muse 8:30 is for it to become the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, our plan is to host another music event that will serve as a way to raise money for charities," Knudsen said.

"I like to do things that I want to do, not just for the competition," Gosslee said. "I've collected everything that I've done, but right now my photography is focusing on my love of color that involves a secret method she has left feeling like 'oh, this is a really great thing and I'd like to do it again,'" Wu said.

"I see through the camera lens and I simplify," Gosslee said. "I really like to do things that I want to do, not just for the competition," Gosslee said. "I've collected everything that I've done, but right now my photography is focusing on my love of color that involves a secret method she has left feeling like 'oh, this is a really great thing and I'd like to do it again,'" Wu said.

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TRBC celebrates 40 years of memories

JESSICA STEARNS
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With more than 240,000 Christmas lights, Thomas Road Baptist Church (TRBC) is inviting audiences to come celebrate its 40th anniversary of its holiday production, the Virginia Christmas Spectacular.

TRBC is celebrating its 40th anniversary of the Thomas Road Christmas Carol, a retelling of the most significant events in history through the eyes of Ebenezer Scruggs who finds himself stressed and disappointed with his life and nothing seeming the way he expected it to be. In his search for truth and honor of the show's 40th anniversary, Scruggs and the audience revisit memories they have over the years of past Christmas Spectacular performances.

This year's production is called "A Christmas Carol," a retelling of the Charles Dickens classic. "This is (It is) a common story to find your dreams or things have not turned out the way you thought they would," said producer director Love Marsh. "It is a common story to find your dreams or things have not turned out the way you thought they would," said producer director Love Marsh.

Charles Billingsley, executive producer and director, said that the best part of doing the show is hearing stories from people of emailing and calling about how it changed their lives.

"Being able to tell the story in a new way each year, and doing something that we will have an impact on people's lives is a great privilege," Marsh said.

This year, TRBC is teaming up with Grazing for the World, an organization dedicated to reaching poverty-stricken people around the world, and local food banks by donating the show proceeds to help provide food for the families suffering from hunger in Lynchburg, part of the feeding Our Neighbor project.

The Virginia Christmas Spectacular has one weekend of performances left to dazzle audiences and spread the hope of Christmas. TRBC is also offering a Christmas Dinner Buffet an hour and a half before the Friday and Saturday shows for an additional cost. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit new.trbc.org/events or call 888-244-2178.

STEARNS is a feature reporter.

Liberty celebrates Christmas in Lights

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Attendees socialized with friends and enjoyed hot chocolate at the Liberty University Chamber Singers and Concert Choir led students in popular Christmas carols.

Student Activities announced details of the campus-wide downtown decorating contest which began Monday night and also held an ugly sweater contest, awarding winners with tickets to the Christmas Spectacular.

Chancellor Jerry Falwell Jr. spoke briefly, expressing his excitement to finally see decorations lighting up the campus. He said he hopes that "Christmas in Lights" will continue on for many years as a Liberty tradition and that they can add more onto it each year.

"We've already decorated a lot indoors, but we've never done any outdoor decorations," said the Chancellor. "It is a common story to find your dreams or things have not turned out the way you thought they would," the Chancellor said.

The Chancellor and his wife, Becki, then made four-way stop at the DeMoss parking lot, where a 30-foot tree had been adorned with lights, ribbon, and topped with a golden star. Everyone counted down and after an enthusiastic "one" was yelled, the tree lit up.

Promotions Morgan Hinson said that the event was a great way to introduce the Christmas season and get students in the Christmas spirit.

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